

# Cerebral Aneurysm Repair

Cerebral aneurysm is the fourth most frequent cerebrovascular disorder. A cerebral aneurysm is an aneurysm of the brain and it occurs when there is a weakened area in the wall of a blood vessel that causes dilatation (widening). People with cerebral aneurysms can be born with one or develop it later in life. It is estimated that 5% of the population has some type of aneurysm.

Symptoms usually do not appear until complications develop. Bleeding is the most common cause of symptoms. Weakness, numbness, or other loss of nerve function may occur because of pressure from the aneurysm on adjacent brain tissue or because of reduced blood flow caused by a spasm of other blood vessels near a ruptured (burst) aneurysm.

Because symptoms often do not appear until bleeding occurs, cerebral aneurysm may be an emergency condition when it is discovered. The goal of treatment is to control symptoms and prevent further bleeding. Surgery, cerebral aneurysm repair, is the primary treatment for cerebral aneurysm. In order to repair the aneurysm, the doctor will have to perform a craniotomy (cut through the skull). The base of the aneurysm is closed off to prevent blood flow through the aneurysm. Several techniques are available to accomplish this. Clipping involves placing a clip on the neck of the aneurysm. Wrapping involves reinforcement of the weakened arterial wall. Ligation of the neck of the aneurysm involves binding.

**Research suggests that a low volume hospital is one that performed less than 30 cerebral aneurysm repairs per year.**

[See page 20 for references, numbers 7 and 37.]

## Procedure-Specific Questions

- ◆ Is there a possibility that I may have seizures because of the craniotomy?
- ◆ Will my hair have to be shaved for the surgery?
- ◆ Will the craniotomy cause me to lose or decrease function of my hands and feet? Will it affect my speech?
- ◆ Will I be admitted to the intensive care unit after my surgery?

(See page 3 for other questions)

Region	Average Annual Volume
Subregion	
Hospital	
<b>Central / Northeastern Region</b>	
<b>Columbia</b>	
Boone Hospital Center	17
University Hospitals and Clinics	22
<b>Kansas City / Western Region</b>	
<b>Clay / Platte Counties</b>	
North Kansas City Hospital	2
<b>Eastern Jackson County</b>	
Independence Regional Health Center	3
<b>Kansas City (Jackson County)</b>	
Baptist Medical Center	3
Research Medical Center	17
Saint Joseph Health Center	2
Saint Luke's Hospital	16
Truman Medical Center-Hospital Hill	1
<b>Rest of Area</b>	
Heartland Regional Medical Center	1
<b>Southeastern Region</b>	
<b>Cape Girardeau</b>	
Saint Francis Medical Center	15
Southeast Missouri Hospital	3
<b>Southwestern Region</b>	
<b>Joplin</b>	
Freeman Health System	6
St. John's Regional Medical Center	4
<b>Springfield</b>	
Lester E. Cox Medical Center South	17
St. John's Regional Health Center	19
<b>St Louis / Eastern Region</b>	
<b>St. Charles County</b>	
SSM St. Joseph Health Center	5
<b>St. Louis City / County</b>	
Barnes-Jewish Hospital	68
Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest	16
Depaul Health Center	6
Forest Park Hospital	5
Missouri Baptist Medical Center	2
Saint Louis University Hospital	24
SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood	3
SSM St. Mary's Health Center	7
St. Anthony's Medical Center	11
St. John's Mercy Medical Center	15
St. Luke's Hospital	9